

CERTAIN GATT PROVISIONS UNFAIR TO AMERICAN INVENTORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the greatest crime of the decade is in progress, and very few people in this House and very few people around the United States of America realize what a heinous crime is about to be perpetrated. Billions of dollars that should be going into the pockets of America's innovators will instead be going into the bank accounts of multinational and Japanese corporations. Unbeknownst to 99 percent of all Americans, as well as, and get this, 90 percent of my fellow Members of Congress, unbeknownst to all of us, hidden in the GATT implementation language is a provision that will dramatically reduce the length of patent protection for America's most creative people.

This administration, encouraged by wealthy and powerful Japanese and multinational corporations, has slipped this provision into GATT, and if it stays in GATT and the GATT passes, Americans will pay dearly. The insidious aspect of this is that it is being done in disguise. The wording of this provision would lead all of us, even those who know what is in there, to conclude that the length of patent protection is actually being extended. What it says now today, American inventors are protected from 17 years from the time they are issued a patent. The changes in the GATT language say they will be protected now 20 years from the time they file for their patent. That would make you think they have 20 years of protection.

American inventors are not fooled, because they know that patent pending means nothing. This provision in GATT will basically, for America's inventors, cut their protection half, maybe to a third, and maybe wipe it out altogether.

Billions of dollars' worth of royalties that would have been going to America's inventors, will now be in the bank accounts of Japanese corporations and multinational corporations.

The first insidious aspect is the language makes it sound like it is actually extending the protection, when in reality we are reducing the protection for Americans. Another insidious aspect is we are being told this change is mandated by the GATT treaty itself. That is why it is in the GATT implementation language.

Well, the fact is, it is not mandated by GATT. This is a special interest provision that has been slipped into a treaty and presented to this body as if it is mandated by that treaty. That will benefit special interests to the tune of billions of dollars, yet it is not mandated by GATT. This is a crime against this Congress. It is a crime against the people of this country. What will happen if it passes? Inven-

tors will be ripped off, as I say, to the tune of billions. American universities, which now develop many innovations and patents, and often patents are left to universities, will lose billions and billions of dollars that are now going into the coffers of our universities to educate our people and provide money for research and development.

In fact, private research and development, which is predicated on the idea that you are going to have 17 years worth of protection, that private research and development money that has been so essential for American prosperity, will dry up because why should investors be investing in something when they do not have the same length of patent protection? In fact, they may not get any protection for the inventions they come up with at all.

Also, when all of this happens, of course, our balance of payments with Japan and other competitors, will be greatly affected. Those royalties that should be going to American investors will now be going right into the products and bank accounts of those Japanese corporations. We, in fact, will lose a competitive edge, because these countries will no longer have to pay to use American technology. Our innovators, our creators will come up with the technology. They will use it. The length of time they have to pay to use it is diminished so greatly, the costs will be greatly minimized to those corporations overseas. American competitiveness will be hurt dramatically.

America's future depends, as it always has, on our ability to come up with a better idea, to come up with a better approach. America's inventors, our innovators, our creative genius, has been the mainstream of our prosperity, wealth and freedom. And what we are doing and what this administration is doing by a stealth tactic is underhandedly trying to steal this away from the American people. We cannot put up with it.

I would hope that my colleagues would realize what is in the GATT implementation legislation. I am pleading with them. Please pay attention to the details. Stop this ripoff. Stop this crime that is in progress.

REGULATORY RELAY LAP NO. 3— ROOFING INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of February 11, 1994, and June 10, 1994, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the whole special order. I know the staff has worked long and hard today, and they are anxious to get home to their families. But I had to come over to the floor to talk about something that is really important, and we started another leg today of our regulatory relay.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of small businesses when it comes to stimulating job creation and economic growth seems to be pretty well understood. Unfortunately, however, the actions of the current administration run completely counter to this knowledge, and instead are strangling the small businesses in this country. President Clinton has not only raised taxes, he also imposed new mandates through the Family and Medical Leave Act and has fought for health care package that without a doubt would shut down some of these small businesses.

Furthermore, little has been said about one of the biggest obstacles small businesses face to economic growth—the problem of overregulation. Over the last 4 years, the regulatory burden has grown tremendously, and as a result the private sector has lost nearly 2 million jobs since early 1990. Federal regulatory costs are estimated—conservatively—to be about \$600 billion annually. This translates into \$2,500 for every man, woman, and child in America. Much of this cost is so hidden that it doesn't show up on any sales or paycheck receipts.

And regulations don't only cost money—they also cost time. The chief paperwork manager at the Interior Department has estimated that Americans spend about 12 billion hours a year—48 hours per capita—simply dealing with Federal forms. Imagine the productivity that is lost as a result of this burden.

As chairman of the Republican Research Committee's Task Force on Competitiveness, I have tried to promote an awareness of the problem of overregulation. This morning I held a press conference to run a third lap of the Republican Regulatory Relay. Created in 1992 in conjunction with President Bush's moratorium on new regulations, the regulatory relay was instituted to fight the regulatory bureaucracy and highlight the barrages of unnecessary and ill-conceived regulations that are forced down the throats of American businesses and American consumers.

This year the relay has focused on particular industries to highlight the regulatory burden carried by that particular trade. The first industry featured was the dry cleaning industry in May, and the second was the restaurant industry in July. This month we are concentrating on the roofing industry; I'd like to commend the National Roofing Contractors Association for all of its hard work on regulatory reform throughout the years.

In fact, 2 years ago, the president of NRCA wrote an article for the Wall Street Journal entitled "So You Want to Get Your Roof Fixed," which details what a typical roofer has to go through to complete a simply roof repair. The number of rules and regulations a roofer must comply with is staggering. And frighteningly, very little has changed since then. If anything, things have gotten worse. I would like to submit a